

66-549

9 February 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Briefing of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Mr. Adam Yarmolinsky

*Chief, Foreign Research Intelligence*

1. Mr. Allen S. Whiting, (C/RFE/INR), called me on the afternoon of Tuesday, 8 February, to request that I come to his office at 1600 on Wednesday, 9 February, to talk about the Viet Cong and its relationship to the DRV with Mr. Adam Yarmolinsky, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

2. Mr. Whiting indicated that Secretary McNamara has become increasingly concerned about what he considers our lack of knowledge concerning the VC. Some time recently (the exact date was not specified) Secretary McNamara suggested to Mr. Whiting that some component of the U.S. Government such as RFE should sponsor a seminar on the VC, inviting academic and other non-governmental students of Vietnamese affairs such as Bernard Fall and even Phillippe Devilliers. The object of this seminar would be to provide the U.S. Government with at least some insight into the nature and organization of its VC adversaries. Mr. Whiting told the Secretary that before any such move was taken, he and other senior officials concerned with this problem ought to avail themselves of the knowledge and analytic talent already existing within the U.S. Government. As examples, he cited Mrs. Dorothy Avery of INR/RFE and myself.

3. On 8 February, Mr. Yarmolinsky called Mr. Whiting at Secretary McNamara's behest to pursue this matter further. After some discussion, Mr. Yarmolinsky said he would like to talk with Mrs. Avery and me in Mr. Whiting's office at 1600 on 9 February. If these conversations indicate that such a session would be of value to Mr. McNamara, Mr. Yarmolinsky will arrange for us to see him at a later date.

4. I agreed to meet Mr. Yarmolinsky in Mr. Whiting's office but will not pursue the matter further or, particularly, talk with Secretary McNamara himself until I have had a chance to discuss this exercise with appropriate senior Agency officials.

[Redacted Signature Box]

GEORGE A. CARVER, JR.  
Vietnamese Affairs Staff

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OFFICE OF THE DD/I

DATE:

TO: Mr. Smith (return )

FROM

SUBJECT: Cyrus Vance Interest in Possible Hanoi  
Dissension over War Policy

REMARKS:  feels you should know that Cyrus Vance has been taking a strong personal interest in sorting out who are the hawks and doves in Hanoi and in the Hanoi-Peking axis; elements on which he is focusing are the several interpretations made of Vo Nguyen Giap's pronouncements and, more recently, the Le Duc Tho article.

Vance may be mulling the question of exploiting strains within the Hanoi leadership in some way (stepping up bombing?).

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